



Council for Quality Assurance in
General and Further Education and Training

UMALUSI CALLS ON FLY-BY-NIGHTS PROVIDERS TO GET LEGAL

Johannesburg, 13 January 2011 – *Umalusi, the Council for Quality Assurance in General and Further Education and Training, today called on all private providers operating without accreditation to legitimise their status in the South African education system.*

2010 saw a numbers of private providers arrested for operating illegally in South Africa.

“We are very concerned about the reputation of private provision in South Africa - private providers operating illegally exploit and mislead learners and this is very damaging to the whole private education sector – by this we mean independent schools, private FET colleges and adult learning centres,” said Dr Rakometsi the CEO of Umalusi.

There are many excellent private providers operating legally and providing high quality education but the “fly-by-night” element tarnished the image of the sector through unscrupulous operations. Umalusi has been accrediting private providers since 2003. It currently has 618 independent schools; 548 private FET colleges and 127 private adult learning centres on its accreditation register.

Accreditation attests to the quality of the provision of providers and is an invaluable marketing device for providers in raising their visibility while also providing reassurance to parents and learners that the provider is legitimate and in so doing enhancing the credibility of the institution.

“Private providers have had ample opportunity to identify themselves and legalise their status, and Umalusi can no longer tolerate providers that provide illegal and sub-standard education and training – Umalusi will work jointly with provincial departments and the Department of Higher Education and Training, in stepping up its efforts to ensure that the fly-by-night element is eradicated”, Dr Rakometsi promised.

Umalusi is the quality Council responsible for standards and quality in general and further education and Training. It is an official body that accredits private providers to offer particular qualifications on the national qualifications framework at level 1-4. Umalusi accredits (1) Private FET colleges, (2) Independent schools and (3) Private adult education and training providers.

To read more about what learners need to know before enrolling, visit Umalusi website: www.umalusi.org.za

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